Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of applying a coating to a substrate comprising:

(a) forming a first pattern in said substrate, wherein said substrate is an asphalt surface;

(b) ~~placing~~ providing a first pre-formed thermally settable sheet ~~on said substrate~~, wherein said sheet is formed of thermoplastic material; ~~and~~

~~(c) heating said sheet *in situ* to a temperature sufficient for said sheet to adhere to said substrate in a configuration conforming to said first pattern~~

(c) providing at least one further pre-formed thermally settable sheet;

(d) placing said first pre-formed sheet and said at least one further pre-formed sheet on said asphalt surface in an aligned configuration; and

(e) gradually heating said sheets *in situ* to a temperature sufficient to bond said sheets to said asphalt surface in a configuration conforming to said first pattern.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [3] 1, wherein said thermoplastic material is coated on said asphalt surface in a thickness between 30 - 150 mil.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [5] 1, further comprising providing a heating apparatus having a support frame extending over said sheets, wherein said heater is mounted for movement on said support frame in a travel path which periodically passes over said sheets to thereby gradually increase the temperature thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said sheets [is] are heated to a temperature between approximately 150 - 450 °F.

8. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein said sheets [is] are heated to a temperature between approximately 300 - 400 °F.

9. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [3] 1, wherein said step of forming said first pattern comprises:

(a) heating said asphalt surface until said surface is pliable;

(b) placing a template on said asphalt surface;

(c) imprinting said template into said asphalt surface to form said first pattern; and

(d) removing said template from said asphalt surface.

10. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [3] 1, wherein said step of forming said first pattern comprises:

(a) forming said asphalt surface from pliable asphalt;

(b) placing a template on said asphalt surface;

(c) imprinting said template into said asphalt surface to form said first pattern; and

(d) removing said template from said asphalt surface.

11. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [3] 1, wherein at least said first sheet is formed in a second pattern matching said first pattern and alignable therewith.

12. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [3] 1 , wherein at least said first sheet is subdividable into a plurality of discrete sections.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [13] 1, wherein said sheets are aligned adjacent one another in non-overlapping relation, wherein edges of adjacent sheets are contiguous.

15. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [13] 1, wherein said sheets are aligned adjacent one another in overlapping relation.

16. (Original) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein said first pattern comprises a plurality of impressions simulating grout lines and wherein said edges of adjacent sheets are aligned with said simulated grout lines.

17. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [13] 1, wherein said sheets are aligned such that one of said sheets at least partially surrounds another one of said sheets.

18. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [3] 1, wherein each of said sheets has a continuous upper surface.

19. The method as defined in claim [3] 1, wherein said sheets [has] have at least one opening formed therein.

20. (Currently amended) A method of applying a thermally settable coating to a substrate comprising:

(a) placing a pre-formed thermally settable sheet on said substrate, said sheet having a first surface in contact with said substrate and a second surface not in contact with said substrate;

(b) heating said sheet *in situ* to a temperature sufficient for said first surface of said sheet to adhere to said substrate; and

(c) imprinting said sheet and said substrate to form a first pattern therein, wherein said imprinting step comprises

(i) placing a template on said second surface of said sheet;

(ii) compressing said template to form an impression in said first pattern in said sheet and said substrate; and

(iii) removing said template from said second surface of said sheet to expose said first pattern

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim [21] 20, further comprising cooling said second surface of said sheet prior to placing said template thereon to substantially prevent adherence of said sheet to said template.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim [19] 20, further comprising applying a bond reduction agent to at least one of said second surface of said sheet and said template to substantially prevent adherence of said sheet to said template.

24. (Original) The method as defined in claim 20, wherein said sheet is formed from thermoplastic material.

25. (Original) The method as defined in claim 24, wherein said substrate is an asphalt surface.

26. (Original) The method as defined in claim 25, wherein said sheet is between approximately 30 - 150 mil in thickness.

27. (Original) The method as defined in claim 26 wherein said sheet is between approximately 50 - 125 mil in thickness.

28. (Original) The method as defined in claim 20, further comprising providing a heating apparatus having a support frame extending over said sheet, wherein said heater is mounted for movement on said support frame in a travel path which periodically passes over said sheet to thereby gradually increase the temperature thereof.

29. (Original) The method as defined in claim 28, wherein said sheet is heated to a temperature between approximately 150 - 450 °F.

30. (Original) The method as defined in claim 29, wherein said sheet is heated to a temperature between approximately 300 - 400 °F.

31-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A method of applying a coating to a substrate comprising:

(a) forming a first pattern in said substrate, wherein said substrate is an asphalt surface;

(b) placing a first pre-formed thermally settable sheet on said substrate, wherein said sheet is formed of thermoplastic material; and

(c) heating said sheet *in situ* to a temperature sufficient for said sheet to adhere to said substrate in a configuration conforming to said first pattern,

wherein said sheet comprises a first surface which is placed in contact with said asphalt surface and a second surface which is not placed in contact with said asphalt surface and wherein the step of heating said thermoplastic sheet *in situ* comprises gradually increasing the temperature of said sheet to enable said first surface of said sheet to bond consistently to said asphalt surface, said method further comprising providing a heating apparatus having a support frame extending over said sheet, wherein said heater is mounted for movement on said support frame in a travel path which periodically passes over said sheet to thereby gradually increase the temperature thereof.